Postal and Telecommunication Services in Meghalaya

*80. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the development of postal and telecommunication services in Meghalaya; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

Postal—

Post Offices:

Meghalaya State is at present served by a network of 417 post offices. It has been reported by the Postmaster General, North Eastern Circle that the justification for additional post offices has been examined with reference to the prescribed norms and that 8 more post offices have been found justified. On receipt of theses proposals, Ministry of Finance will be approached by the Department for approval in-relaxation of the ban on creation of posts.

Postal Buildings:

(i) Construction of a new complex for Shillong GPO has been taken up. Two other buildings, one for Williamsnagar sub post office and another for Rongjeng sub post office are under construction.

(ii) Building project in respect of Nongstain sub post office has been sanctioned and the work thereon is scheduled to be commenced during the current year.

Telecommunications

(b) The Department's 7th Five Year Plan envisages the following important telecommunication development in Meghalaya:—

(i) Addition of Switching capacity	2055 lines
(ii) Replacement/Conversion	300 lines
(iii) Net Addition to Working Connections.	1852
(iv) Net Addition to capacity of Trunk Automatic Exchanges	700 lines
(v) Net Addition to Telex capacity	50 lines
(vi) UHF Radio Relay System	153 route kms.
(vii) Multi Access Radio Relay Systems	2
(viii) VHF Radio Relay Systems	3
(ix) Satellite Stations	5

Man-Power at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works

386. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state,

(a) whether there is any plan to reduce the present man-power at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to settle the disputes, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Roadways passing through railway tunnels in Asansol-Dhanbad Complex

387. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the roadways passing through the Railway tunnels in Asansol-Dhanbad Industrial Complex are in bad shape;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such roadways are causing hazards to the pedestrians and vehicular traffic; and

(c) if so, whether the Railways propose to take any steps to maintain the sections of the roadways lying within the jurisdiction of the railways inside the tunnels for improvement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) There are seven road under bridges between Asansol and Dhanbad. The responsibility of the maintenance of the road surface lies with the Railway Administration in 4 cases and with the State Government for the balance 3.

The road surface at all these under bridges is generally satisfactory except for one which the Railway is finding difficult to maintain, on account of leaking pipe line owned and maintained by the State Government. The matter is being pursued with the concerned State Authorities.

Stopping of Passenger Trains at Asansol Court and Chhatapathar on Eastern Railway

388 SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Railways propose to stop the passenger trains on the Asansol-Adra section at Asansol Court and another at Chhatapathar on Eastern Railway main line near Asansol; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) At present, there is no proposal to open halt stations at these places.

(b) Does not arise.

'BNR Bridge' on Asansol-Adra Section of South-East Railway

389. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 'BNR Bridge' constituting a portion of G H. Road at Apcar Garden, Asansol on the Asansol-Adra Section of S. E. Railway is in danger;

(b) whether it is also a fact that several representations were made to the Deputy Superintendent, Adra for taking up necessary maintenance and development programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Some representations were received for the widening of the bridge and provision of foot-paths on its either side

(d) The Railway has already written to the State Government to agree to the sharing of the cost of improvement of the bridge, as per extant conventions, and conducting survey for a new bridge, in replacement of the existing one, if necessary. The State Government's response is still awaited.

Dankuni-Belanagar-Rajchandrapur Rail Passengers' Association

390 SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Dankuni-Belanagar-Rajchandrapur Rail Passengers' Association have suspended their agitation programme after written assurances were given by the DRM, Howrah;

(b) if so, what are those demands for which the Association had to start agitation from 14-10-1987; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railway authorities to fulfil those demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The Association had presented a Memorandum containing 14 demands, including increase in suburban services on Howrah-Barddhaman section, certain changes in the Suburban Time Tables, stoppage of trains, review of passenger amenities, etc. They met DRM, Howrah on 13.10.1987